

In re Patent Application of	)	
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Hirotoomo ISHII	)	Group Art Unit: Unassigned
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Application No.: Unassigned	)	Examiner: Unassigned
	)	
Filed: May 1, 2001	)	
	)	
For: IMAGE PROCESSING FOR ...	)	

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**Sir:**

Prior to examination of the above-captioned patent application, kindly enter the following amendment.

### IN THE CLAIMS:

*Kindly replace Claim 4, and add new Claims 4 and 5, as follows.*

4. The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein every N pixel from a pixel at an edge of the image in a predetermined direction within the image is the pixel defined in the first condition, and a pixel which exists on a straight line including the target pixel extending in the predetermined direction and which is positioned within a predetermined range from the target pixel is the pixel defined in the second condition.

5. The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the storage unit stores a third condition defining a position relative to the target pixel in a predetermined